

REMARKS

Summary of Office Action

Claims 33-91 are pending in this application.

The Examiner requires restriction of the application to the invention of one of the following two groups:

Group A (apparatus claims 33-80); and

Group B (method claims 81-91).

The Examiner also requires applicants to elect for prosecution one of the following allegedly patentably distinct species of the claimed inventions:

Species I (FIGS. 1a & 1b);

Species II (FIG. 2);

Species III (FIG. 3);

Species IV (FIG. 4); and

Species V (FIG. 5).

The Examiner said that independent claims 33, 60, and 81 are generic.

Applicants' Reply

Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group A (apparatus claims 33-80) and Species I (shown in FIGS. 1a & 1b) for initial substantive examination. At least claims 33-36, 43-53, 60, 61, 64, and 69-80 are readable on Species I.

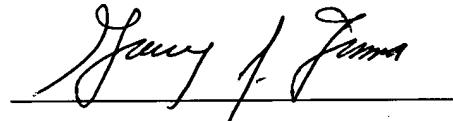
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September 21, 2006 Reply To Office Action

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the invention of the nonelected group, as originally claimed, in a divisional application.

Applicants understand that if a generic claim is allowed, applicants are entitled to consideration of claims drawn to nonelected species that are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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